

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 AGR-20 RSR-01 /152 W  
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O 241152Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3205

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5206

FOR WHITE HOUSE AND USDA

E.O. 11652: GDS

ORGS: EAGR, ETRD, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN COMMODITY IMPORTS

REF: A) STATE 138598,  
138598 B) STATE 131357

1. UNCERTAINTY ABOUT FY 1974 AVAILABILITY U.S. WHEAT AND SOYBEAN OIL CAUSING INCREASINGLY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR GOI. VEGETABLE OIL MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS HOLDING BACK ON DELIVERIES AND RECENTLY HARVESTED WHEAT NOT BEING SENT TO MARKET AS BOTH DISTRIBUTORS AND FARMERS ANTICIPATE GRAIN SHORTAGE AND SHARP RISE IN PRICES. GOI HAS DECIDED ELIMINATE FIVE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT IMPORT REGISTRATION TAX ON VEGETABLE OIL, MOVE WHICH LIKELY TEMPORARILY EASE SUPPLY SITUATION. MARKET STABILITY, HOWEVER, WILL DEPEND ON SATISFACTORY ASSURANCES THAT FURTHER SUPPLIES U.S. OIL WILL SOON BE FORTHCOMING.

2. GOI MAKES SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT CONTROL COMMODITY PRICES IN  
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URBAN AREAS AS MEANS MINIMIZING POLITICAL DISCONTENT. STOCKS

SUGAR AND VEGETABLE OIL NOW BECOMING NOTICABLE SHORT, AND WHEN AVAILABLE, VEGETABLE OIL BEING SOLD AT PRICES 30-40 PERCENT ABOVE NORMAL. BANK OMRAN, SEMI-PRIVATE BANK MANAGING PAHLAVI FOUNDATION INTERESTS AND GOI'S COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAM, UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE DEMONSTRATE ITS ABILITY INSURE CONTINUOUS FLOW ADEQUATE STOCKS WHEAT AND SOYBEAN OIL. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, OMRAN PRESIDENT RAM HAS PREVAILED UPON COURT MINISTER ALAM SEND MESSAGE ASKING SHAH RAISE THIS PROBLEM WITH PRESIDENT NIXON.

3. EMBASSY APPRECIATES THAT IMPOSITION EXPORT CONTROL PRECLUDES MAKING NEW COMMITMENTS FOR TITLE I VEGETABLE OIL SHIPMENTS AND SALES WHEAT, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT SHAH AND GOI SHOULD BE GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT U.S. WILL TAKE CARE OF IRAN'S URGENT COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS. OUR CLOSE POLITICAL TIES AND IMPORTANCE MAINTAIN LONG TERM SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP IN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES DICTATES THAT WE GIVE GOI EVERY POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION.

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## Message Attributes

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